HIV/AIDS awareness among students

4123. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes launched to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS and other such dreaded diseases among students of schools and colleges;

(b) the States which have reported highest number of such cases during the last two years and steps taken or measures evolved to control the upward trend;

(c) the awareness centres opened with number of patients treated in each individual centre in Orrissa during the last two years; and

(d) the authority which is monitoring the programme in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) In National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II launched for students of schools and colleges are as follows:—

- School AIDS Education which addresses students of classes IX & XI and focuses on raising awareness levels, helping young people resist peer pressure and developing a safe and responsible lifestyle.
- Campaign for Youth—NACO developed two audio and two video spots focusing on the vulnerability of young people to HIV. Press advertisements were also developed as part of this campaign.
- University Talk AIDS Project—The University Talk AIDS Project began in October 1991 and is a collaborative partnership between the National Service Scheme (NSS), Dept. of Youth Affairs & Sports and NACO. The project involves creating awareness among students and the youth on issues related to HIV/AIDS through workshops, seminars and written materials especially designed for them.

(b) Tamil Nadu has reported the highest number of AIDS cases during the last two years.

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

- Reducing the spread of HIV in high risk groups by identification of target population and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

- Preventive intervention for the general population through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, providing voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

(c) While there are eight Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres in Orissa, no Care & Support Centre operates in the State.

(d) Orissa State AIDS Control Society headed by project Director, monitors the implementation of National AIDS Control Programme.

News-item "Maan Se Bachche Mein AIDs Rokne Wali Davavon Mein Vivad"

4124. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Maan Se Bachche Mein AIDS Rokne Wali Davavon Mein Vivad", which appeared in the *Rashtriya Sahara*, dated the 6th March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these medicines meant to prevent HIV/AIDS infection have been banned in the developed countries;

(c) if so, the reasons for such ban; and

(d) the level at which the decision to allow use of these medicines was taken and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The safety of the AZT and Nevirapine have been evaluated worldwide for the prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV. These drugs are approved by the World Health Organization and Drug Controller Authority of India for preventing Mother to Child transmissison of HIV infection. National AIDS Control